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Gettysburg

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The exact number of men engaged at Gettysburg has always been in dispute, but it is estimated that General Meade had an effective force at his disposal of about 83,000 men and 327 guns. General Lee actually fought about 69,000 men and 250 guns. During the three days' fight the Union losses were 23,049 killed, wounded and missing, and the Confederate losses aggregated 23,029; a total of 43,078, or nearly one-third of the whole number of men on the field.

Meanwhile the Union army under General Hooker had started in pursuit and was marching parallel to Lee's right flank, keeping between the enemy and Washington. The armies avoided coming into direct collision for several days. On the night of the 30th, General Meade, who had succeeded Hooker, ordered General Reynolds, commanding the First and Eleventh corps, to occupy Gettysburg. It so happened that Lee, fearing that his corps were too scattered, had ordered his commanders to turn southward and concentrate near the same town. Following out their several instructions the advanced bodies of both armies clashed a few miles northwest of Gettysburg on the morning of the 1st of July. The story of the battle is told with the views in this book. After his defeat Lee retired across the Potomac.

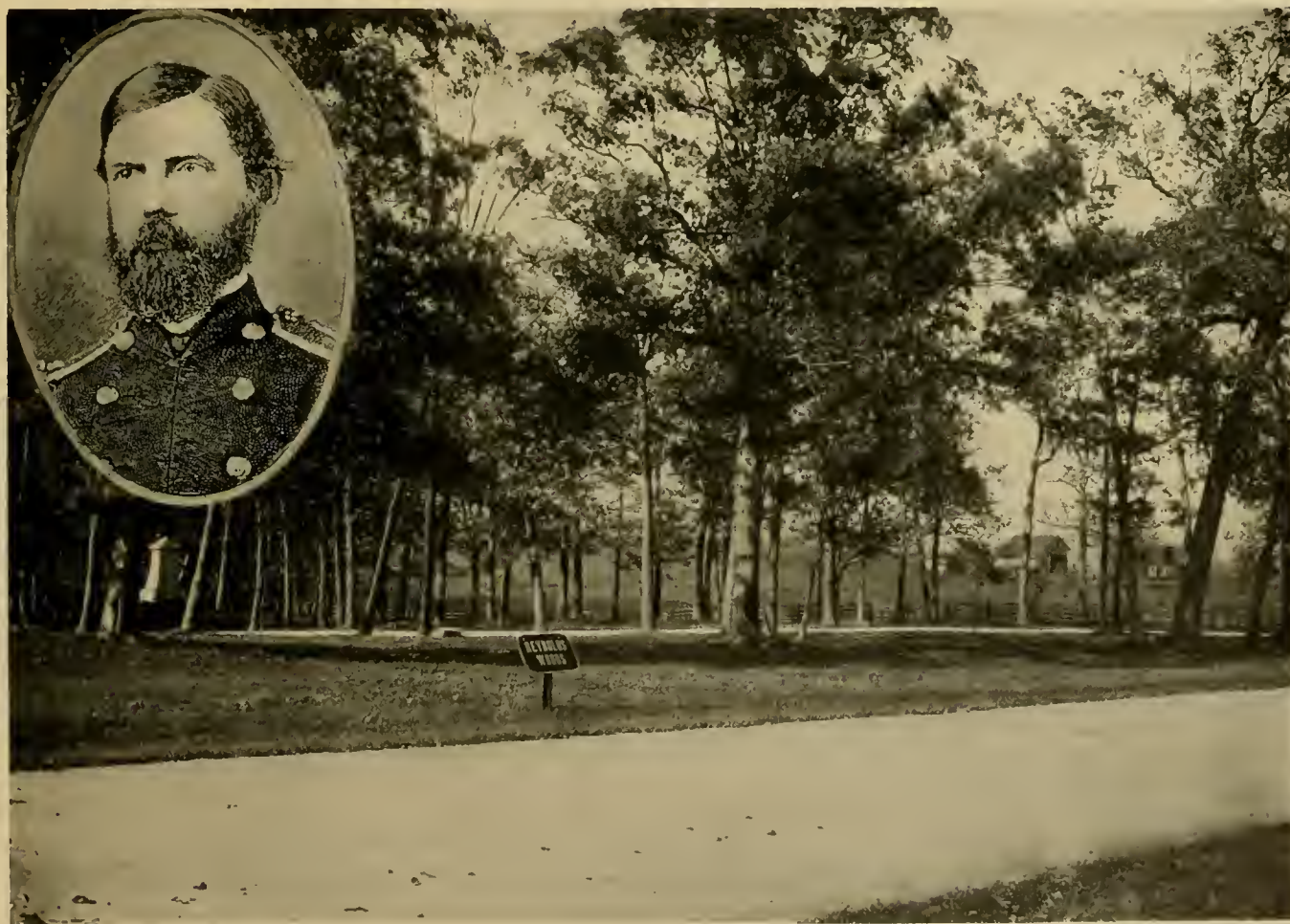
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McPHERSON'S FARM, CHAMBERSBURG PIKE. FIRST DAY.

At 8.30 on the morning of July 1, 1863, the advance of the Confederates along the Chambersburg Pike, shown in this view running parallel to the railroad cut, was discovered by scouts of Buford's Cavalry. With the aid of a battery of artillery the gallant cavalymen held the enemy at bay until the arrival of Reynolds with infantry and artillery reinforcements. The original line of battle extended across the background of this view as marked by the white memorials, but fresh troops coming up and engaging on both sides caused the tide of war to roll along the whole northern front of the town. Late in the afternoon Ewell's corps overwhelmed the Union right and forced it to retreat through the streets of Gettysburg. The line held by the left was untenable and it retired doggedly to Cemetery Ridge.



WHERE GENERAL REYNOLDS WAS KILLED. FIRST DAY.

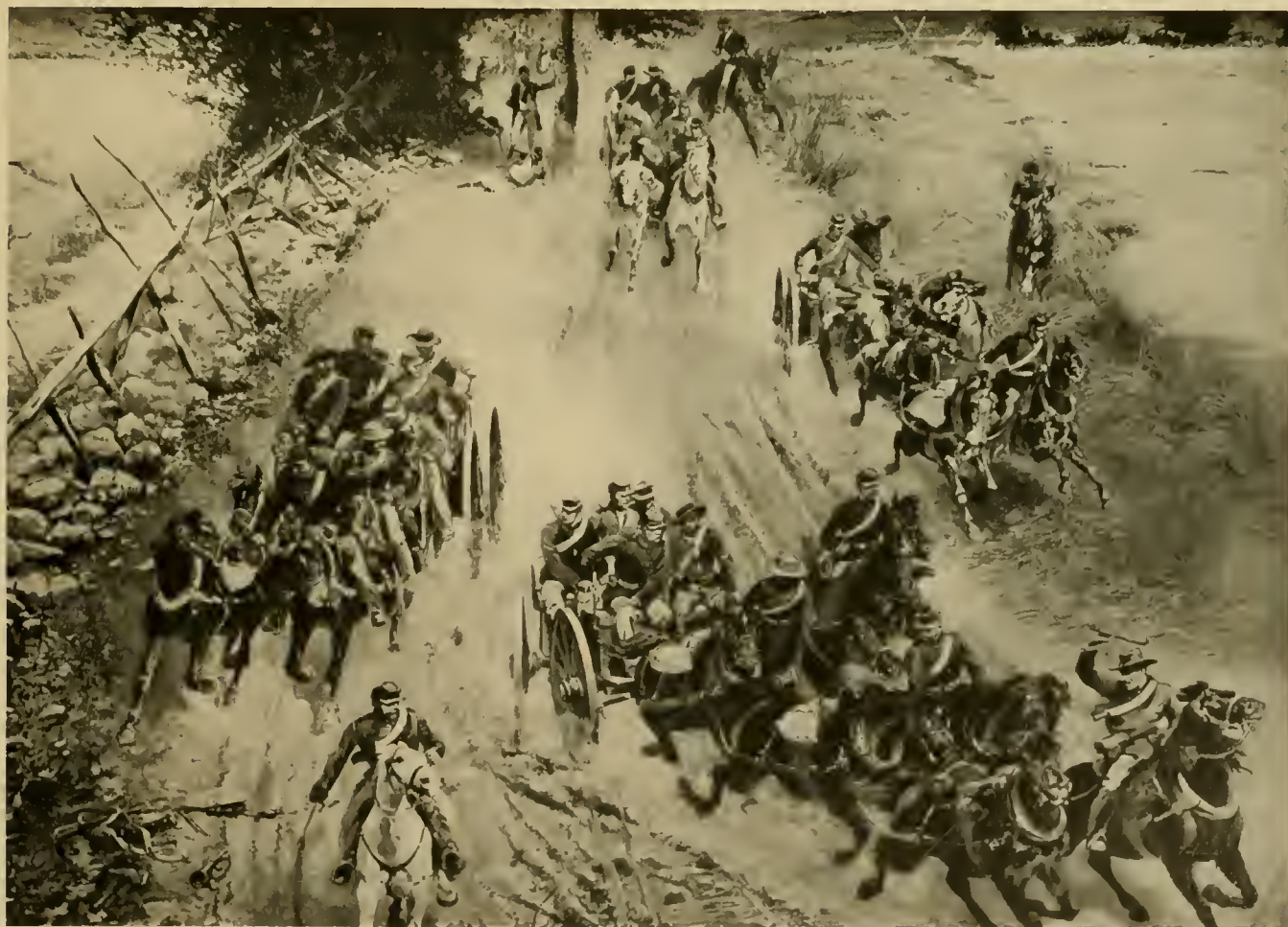
The cavalymen had exhausted their carbine ammunition and were holding the line with Colt revolvers when Reynold's arrived at 10 o'clock with Wadsworth's division and Hall's Second Maine Battery. The new line was barely formed before the Confederates struck it in force. General Reynolds rode forward to better observe the field. Animated by his presence Meredith's "Iron Brigade" charged, turned the enemy's right, and captured the Confederate general Archer, and a large part of his command. Cutler's men drove the rebels under Davis from the railroad cut, pell-mell. It was a brilliant opening to the great battle, but cost the life of Reynolds, who, while directing operations from the clump of trees near the McPherson Farm, was shot and almost instantly killed. The grove is now known as "Reynolds' Woods."



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DEATH OF GENERAL REYNOLDS. FIRST DAY.

Major General John F. Reynolds was the officer of highest rank killed at Gettysburg. He had ridden forward to personally examine the ground. While turning from side to side in his saddle, anxious to hasten the advance of the troops, he was shot in the head by a Confederate sharpshooter, fell from his horse and died without speaking. General Reynolds had impressed the army and the authorities at Washington with his ability, and an appointment to the full command, on the removal of Hooker a few days before, had gone over him to Meade by the merest chance. At the time of his death General Reynolds was commanding the left wing of the army. He was succeeded by General Abner Doubleday, who stubbornly held the line on the left during the day and only retired when his right was uncovered by Ewell's success.



ARTILLERY GOING INTO ACTION. FIRST DAY.

The efficient work of Calef's battery A, Second United States Artillery, was an important aid to the cavalry in holding the long line for two hours. With General Reynolds came Hall's Second Maine battery which swung into position on the Chambersburg Pike and relieved Calef. Hall's battery was imperiled by a retrograde movement of the infantry at one stage and after fighting with canister at close range was forced to withdraw in sections with severe loss. It was replaced by Reynolds' battery. Later, Colonel Wainwright, commanding the corps artillery, planted the guns at the foot of Seminary Ridge, with Stewart's battery to the north of it. From this position Stewart raked the final Confederate advance and inflicted heavy loss. When retiring Wainwright was pressed hard, but only lost one gun.



THE PEACH ORCHARD. SECOND DAY.

The armies spent the night of July 1st in preparing for battle. Troops and artillery were hurried into position. Both commanders decided to stand their ground. Morning found the Union army momentarily expecting an attack, but it was not until four in the afternoon that Longstreet's corps was launched at the Federal left. The open field directly in front of the large white building (the Trostle barn) in the center of the view, is the Peach Orchard. Here Sickles' advanced position bore the brunt of the first attack. It was the scene of terrific fighting. The first assaults of the enemy were repulsed, but towards six o'clock, after a bloody conflict, the angle was broken in. Sickles was severely wounded, and the Federals fell back slowly, fighting every inch of the way.



THE LOOP. SECOND DAY.

The Loop, the knob covered with monuments in the view, is located to the left and rear of the Peach Orchard. Here Barnes held the Union line and sustained the attacks of Kershaw's South Carolina brigade sent by Longstreet to take the Peach Orchard in reverse. The assault was most desperate and with a strength at least double that of the defenders. The struggle was persistent and bloody, but the Fifth corps' men were finally forced back and the enemy struck the flank of deTrobriand's brigade holding the Wheatfield line. It was a costly gain. After the battle the bodies of over fifteen hundred Confederate dead were gathered in front of this position and buried in trenches near the Rose house from which this view was taken.



THE WHEATFIELD. SECOND DAY.

The advance of McLaw's and Hood's divisions engaged the Union forces in the Wheatfield, a position further left and in the rear of the Peach Orchard. The attack at this point was resisted firmly during several hours of hard fighting. The Federal lines were assaulted repeatedly without gain. After Barksdale had pushed back the Union regiments from the Peach Orchard, Kershaw's and Wofford's brigades fell on the right flank of the heroic defenders of the Wheatfield, drove them out, and advanced the Confederate line to the Plum Run valley, west of Little Round Top. Here the victorious enemy was met by a charge of three brigades of the Fifth and Sixth Corps. When darkness closed the battle, the Confederates held possession of the southern and western sides of this dearly won field.



DEVIL'S DEN. SECOND DAY.

This mass of rock, within easy range of Little Round Top, was defended by Smith's Fourth New York battery. As the exultant Confederates pushed back the Union line they carried the Devil's Den and captured three of Smith's guns. The position was immediately occupied by the enemy's sharpshooters, who opened a deadly fire upon the Federals defending Little Round Top. Their practice was so accurate that Hazlett's battery, which had been dragged to the summit, could not be used with effect. In one instance three gunners were picked off before the fourth succeeded in firing the piece, and General Weed and Lieutenant Hazlett were both shot dead. The Federal sharpshooters in turn reduced the Confederate fire and the artillery vigorously shelled the Den. Sixty-eight dead Confederates were found among these boulders.



LOOKING TOWARD LITTLE ROUND TOP FROM DEVIL'S DEN. SECOND DAY.

This wild ground was savagely contested as the victorious Confederates attempted to seize Little Round Top. Their preliminary movements had been observed by General Warren, chief engineer of the Union army, in time to call upon the brigades of Weed and Vincent, and Hazlett's battery, for the defence of the summit. Colonel Strong Vincent, 83d Pennsylvania, fell mortally wounded at the head of a charge which drove the enemy over the boulders to the ravine below. At the extreme left McLaw's Alabama brigade took the crest of Big Round Top, but were hurled headlong from the adjoining slope of Little Round Top by the Twentieth Maine. Big Round Top was retaken during the night. The Confederates clung to the woods and rocks at the base of the two hills. It marked the limit of their advance against the Union left.



LITTLE AND BIG ROUND TOPS. SECOND DAY.

The rocky eminence of Little Round Top was a natural fortification whose defensive and strategic value was quickly noted by the practiced eye of General Warren. The fighting in this vicinity did not cease until nine in the evening. The ground was covered with the dead and wounded of the combatants. It is not to be wondered at that the valley in front through which meanders Plum Run should be known as the "Valley of Death," and the base and left slope of Little Round Top as the "Slaughter Pen." The firing had been so heavy that trees were actually cut off by bullets, the ragged edges proving the fact. A fine road built by the government now winds about the base of the Round Tops. It connects with similar roads which skirt the line of the Union front along Cemetery Ridge to the extreme right.



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THE WHIRLPOOL IN THE WHEATFIELD. SECOND DAY.

The fighting in the Wheatfield took on the character of a savage and destructive whirlpool shortly after six o'clock, as successive charges of hostile regiments which advanced, then retired, and then fought in circles in an endeavor to outmaneuver and outflank each other, gave the conflict that resemblance. Often the combatants came to close quarters and withering volleys were exchanged with terrible effect. Here fell the brave General Zook while gallantly leading the Third brigade in person. When darkness fell, the field of growing wheat that had looked so fair in the morning was trampled and bloody, and covered with the bodies of the slain and sorely wounded. It is estimated that more blood was shed in the Peach Orchard and Wheatfield than upon any other tract of equal size in America.



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CHARGE OF THE PENNSYLVANIA RESERVES. SECOND DAY.

It was growing dark, but the success of the Confederates in pushing back the Union line inspired them to greater efforts. Their skirmishers advanced across the Valley of Death. This movement was met by a brilliant charge of the Pennsylvania Reserves who swept over the valley and sent the enemy scurrying back to the recesses of the woods. It was accomplished in the face of a wicked musketry fire and effectually stopped the forward movement of the Confederates for the second day of battle. The Pennsylvanians under arms at Gettysburg consisted of sixty-eight regiments of infantry, nine regiments of cavalry, and seven batteries of artillery. They resented the presence of the enemy on the soil of their State and fought with patriotic ardor. Fifty-eight hundred and ninety-one were among the killed, wounded and missing.



UNION WORKS ON CULP'S HILL. SECOND DAY.

Ewell had been ordered to strike the Union right when he heard the sound of Longstreet's guns attacking the left. After a lively artillery duel in which the Federal artillery posted on Cemetery Hill silenced their opponents, Johnson's brigade was sent against Greene entrenched on Culp's Hill. This view shows the Union works along the front of the monuments erected to mark the positions of organizations. The fighting was of a determined character for three hours, but reinforcements coming up, Greene beat off every assault of the enemy. Johnson only retained a foot hold upon Culp's Hill where a portion of the Twelfth corps, ordered to other parts of the line, had vacated its defenses. These troops returned during the night and the next morning ousted Johnson after a bitter conflict.



EAST CEMETERY HILL FROM STEVENS' KNOLL. SECOND DAY.

When Johnson engaged Culp's Hill, Early's division formed in the streets of Gettysburg for an attack at about 7.30 in the evening. It advanced along Bloody Lane, concealed by the trees in the right middle distance of the view, and led by Hay's "Louisiana Tigers," charged the Union line on East Cemetery Hill, the eminence crowned by the tower. The column was broken by a terrible enfilade fire from Stevens' Fifth Maine battery on the knoll in the foreground and also from the 33d Massachusetts infantry stationed near the marker in the center of the view, but fought desperately on and overran Wiederich's and Rickett's batteries near the brow of the hill. A savage rally of artillerymen with pistols, handspikes, rammers, and even stones and fence rails recovered the guns, and the Confederates were driven to their lines.



THE BLOODY ANGLE—WHERE PIC

On the third day Lee determined to smash the Union center and assigned the task to Longstreet's corps. About one o'clock in the afternoon one hundred and eighty Confederate guns opened fire, to which one hundred and forty pieces of Federal artillery gave reply. This terrific duel lasted for two hours. The fire of the Confederates searched the Federal lines and eleven caissons were blown up, to the great joy of the enemy. Near three o'clock General Hunt, chief of artillery on the Union side, gave the order "Cease firing" to avoid a further waste of ammunition. The silence of the guns was mistaken by the Confederates as indicating a lack of projectiles. The assailing column, which had been forming in the woods in the center background of this view, deployed into sight, and fifteen thousand strong, began the famous charge.



STRUCK THE LINE. THIRD DAY.

Across the fifteen hundred yards which separated the two armies, Pickett's men advanced as if on parade. The Federal artillery re-opened with shot and shell and, as they came nearer, the deadly canister, but the Confederates moved forward without a waver. They divided about the Codori house shown in the center of the view. The Union rifle fire now tore their front pitilessly, and Stannard's Vermont brigade volleyed at their right flank. Led by Generals Armistead and Garnett, they kept on and struck the Federal line along the stone wall across the middle of this view. A wild hand-to-hand struggle ensued. Garnett was killed at the wall. Armistead penetrated beyond, to fall mortally wounded. Without leaders they were overwhelmed and beaten, and only a comparative few regained the cover of the woods.



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THE ARTILLERY DUEL. HANCOCK'S RIDE ALONG THE LINE. THIRD DAY.

When the two signal guns boomed at one o'clock the whole Confederate line burst into a sheet of flame. The Federals were not slow in coming back and Big Round Top to Cemetery Hill blazed like a volcano. Deadly missiles from three hundred and forty guns shrieked and tore their way through the air. Under the hot July sun the artillerymen on both sides served their pieces unflinchingly, although the loss in men and horses at some points was horrifying. During the height of the artillery duel, General Winfield S. Hancock, commanding the Union center, rode calmly along the line steadying the men and preparing the infantry for the grand assault sure to follow. General Hancock was severely wounded later in the day while engaged in throwing Stannard's Vermonters into a gap between Pickett and his right support.



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THE FIGHT AT THE BLOODY ANGLE. THIRD DAY.

The Union artillery planted at and near the Bloody Angle threw double canister into the ranks of the oncoming Confederates, but could not stop them. Lieutenant Cushing, holding a gaping wound with one hand, helped to run his piece nearer the wall with the other, and, as he fell, discharged the gun and blew a hole in the enemy's line. As the yelling Confederates leaped the wall, the intrepid Federal infantry rose and met them with bayonets, clubbed rifles and with fists, but were whirled back by the impetuosity of the assault. Fresh Union supports rushed in from all sides. The enemy was shot, bayoneted and clubbed along the front and on each flank. No living men could endure such punishment. Whole companies gave up in despair and only disorganized stragglers returned to the Army of Northern Virginia.



THE HIGH WATER MARK AND COPSE OF TREES.

This impressive monument, in design supporting an open book inscribed with the names of all commands participating in the desperate charge of Longstreet's corps and its repulse, marks the furthest point within the Union lines reached by the brave Confederates. The copse of trees was pointed out by the gallant Pickett, whose picture is in the upper left corner, as the place where his men were to pierce the Federal center. The monument is well named the High Water Mark. Here the wave of rebellion and invasion broke and receded before the rock of Northern valor and never again threatened free soil. The failure of Pickett's charge was no discredit to the fighting ability of the Southerners; their military honor was not tarnished by defeat, but from that hour the Confederate cause felt the shadow of Appomattox.



BATTLEFIELD FROM LITTLE ROUND TOP. WEST VIEW.

Little Round Top, which figures so prominently in the story of Gettysburg, occupies such a commanding location that it is the best point from which to obtain a comprehensive idea of the topography of the battlefield. It was along the background of this view on the afternoon of the second day that Hood's division marched hoping to reach a favorable position against the Federal left, unobserved by the Union signal station on this hill. The attack was delivered diagonally across the left of the view. The trees on the extreme left are on the slope leading to the ravine from which emerged Law's Alabama brigade after sweeping over Big Round Top. In the center of the view is Devil's Den, occupied by the Confederate advance and filled with sharpshooters. All attempts of the enemy to cross the valley were repulsed.



BATTLEFIELD FROM LITTLE ROUND TOP. NORTHWEST VIEW.

The statue of General Warren upon Little Round Top marks where that brave officer stood on the afternoon of the second day and noted the flash of bayonets as the enemy advanced through the woods back of Devil's Den. The open field, dotted with monuments, in front of the trees at the left of this view is the bloody Wheatfield. Beyond the trees is the white Trostle barn and the Peach Orchard, where near six o'clock of that terrible day the fire of sixty Confederate guns were concentrated upon the salient angle held by Sickles. The open space at the elbow of the statue is the ground over which Pickett's division charged on the third day to meet destruction at the Bloody Angle, near the tall shaft of the Stannard monument shown in the upper right corner of this view.



BATTLEFIELD FROM LITTLE ROUND TOP. NORTH VIEW.

This view, over the top of the statue of a zouave marking the position of the 155th Pennsylvania on Little Round Top, carries the eye along the Union line on Cemetery Ridge, with the scene of Pickett's charge in the left background. The bulk of Cemetery Hill and Culp's Hill, held by the Federal right against Ewell's assaults from the north, is outlined dimly on the center horizon. The Federal line, bending like a fish-hook to the east, was over four miles in length. It was firmly held by the determined Army of the Potomac. After the battle the dead Confederates in front of the Union position were buried in great trenches, but were disinterred nine years later and reburied in the South. The hundreds of dead horses were collected in huge piles and burned.



HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDERS.

General Meade established his headquarters during the night after the first day's battle in a small frame cottage on the west side of the Taneytown Road, back of Cemetery Hill. The fighting on the second and third days was directed from here. During the cannonade preliminary to Pickett's charge, exploding shells dropped on all sides of the house and killed twenty-seven horses of the headquarters' guard. A fine equestrian statue of General Meade now marks the spot to which he rode forward and witnessed the retreat of Pickett's men. General Lee accompanied the advance of his army along the Chambersburg Pike. His headquarters during the battle were in a little stone house on that road about one-half mile west of Gettysburg. Both of these buildings are carefully preserved.



VIEW OF THE GENERAL HOSPITAL, GETTYSBURG.

This view of the General Hospital at Gettysburg is of especial interest as a reproduction of a photograph taken in 1863, immediately after the great battle. The hospital tents were located in the rear of the position along Cemetery Ridge, beyond the zone of danger. Here, during the conflict, the surgeons, bared to the elbow, plied their gory knives until overcome by exhaustion. Nearly ten thousand wounded were reported on the returns of the Army of the Potomac, and almost an equal number in the army of General Lee. The decorations on the hospital tents were placed there by the women connected with the United States Christian and Sanitary Commissions, auxiliary to the General Hospital, in an effort to relieve to some extent the horror of the scenes.



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VETERANS OF 1863.

In the dooryard of the Sherfy buildings on the Emmitsburg Road near the Peach Orchard is yet standing an old cherry tree with a ten-pound solid shot embedded in its trunk, an interesting relic of the great battle. On Culp's Hill, many bullet-scarred trees yet bear witness to the severity of the fire at that point. At the close of the war the scene of the conflict at Culp's Hill was covered by a forest of dead trees, the leaden bullets having proven as fatal to them as to the soldiers whose bodies were once thickly strewn beneath. It is estimated upon good authority that almost six hundred tons of deadly missiles were interchanged during the three days' battle. All along the line between the opposing forces the trees were literally peppered with bullets and many great trunks were severed.



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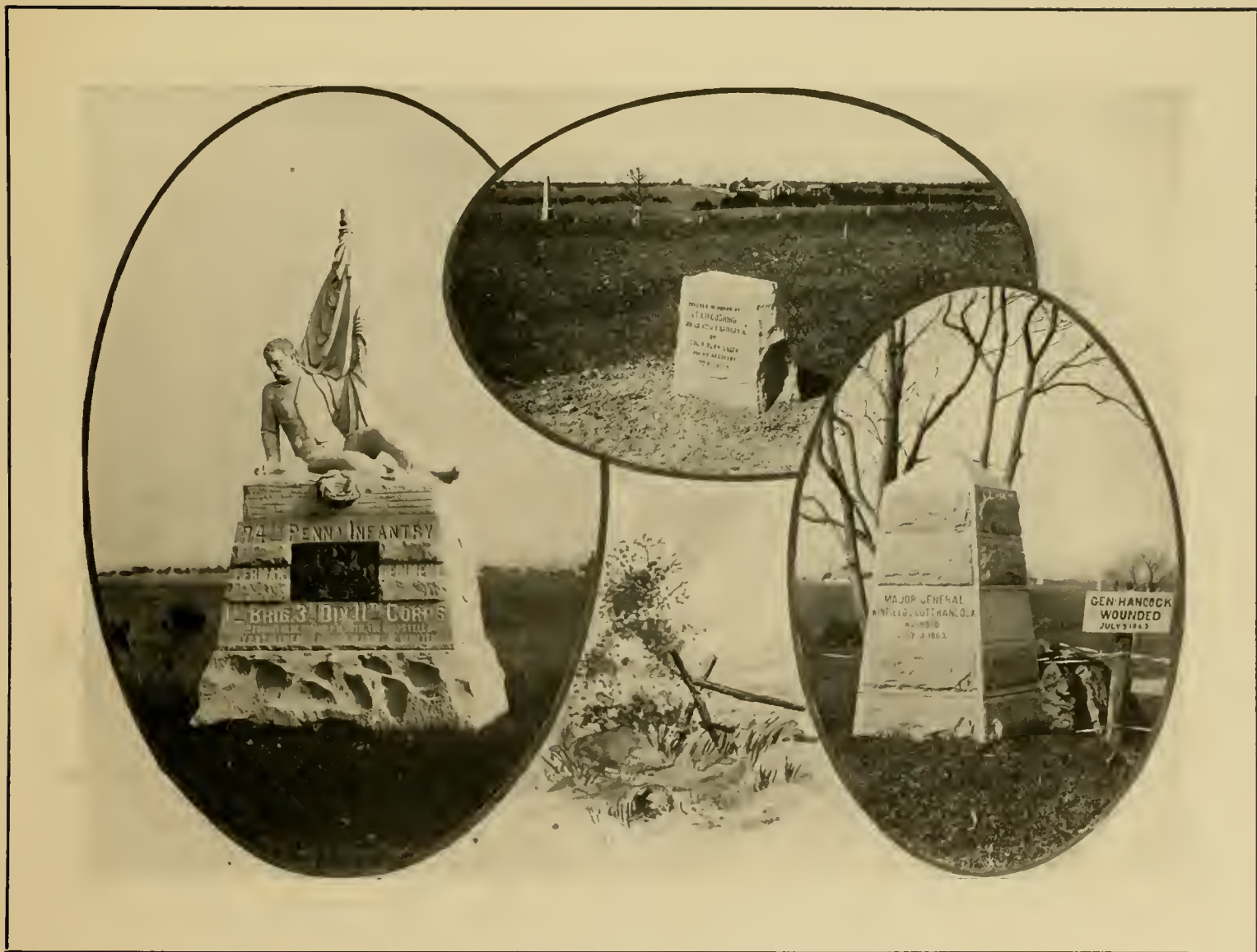
JOHN BURNS, THE OLD HERO OF GETTYSBURG.

John Burns, a citizen of Gettysburg, over seventy years old, seized a musket at the approach of the Confederates and offered his services to Colonel Wister of the 150th Pennsylvania against the foe invading the town. He was advised to fight in the woods but preferred the open line and joined the skirmishers of the 7th Wisconsin, "Iron Brigade." He was wounded in three places and lay all night upon the field of the first day's fight within the lines of the enemy. The view shows his home, taken in 1863, with the old hero on the porch, before he had recovered from his wounds, also the fine statue erected in his honor on the field of battle. A bronze tablet set into the face of the pedestal of native stone tells the story of his services, taken from the official report of Major General Abner Doubleday.



REYNOLDS' MARKER, AND STATUE IN NATIONAL CEMETERY.

Major General John F. Reynolds was a favorite son of the State of Pennsylvania. His death at the beginning of the great fight was widely mourned, not only in his native State, but throughout the country. A granite monument marks the spot where he fell in Reynolds' Woods, near the McPherson buildings on the Chambersburg Pike. In the Gettysburg National Cemetery is a fine bronze statue erected to his memory. It was General Reynolds who observed the availability of Cemetery Ridge for defense, and he had sent an orderly to Meade urging him to accept battle at Gettysburg just before his death. It was his promptitude and gallantry that determined the decisive field of the war.



SOME GETTYSBURG MEMORIALS.

The position of every Union organization and of some of the Confederate commands participating in the battle of Gettysburg has been marked by beautiful memorials, of which the monument at the left of this group is an example. This in particular designates the position held by the 74th Pennsylvania during the first day's fight. It is located on Howard Avenue, north of the town. The stone in the center view marks the spot in the Bloody Angle where Lieutenant Cushing, as he pitched forward mortally wounded, discharged his piece by the weight of his body. The Hancock memorial, shown at the right, stands upon the spot where General Winfield S. Hancock, commanding the Union center, was severely wounded during the repulse of Pickett's charge.



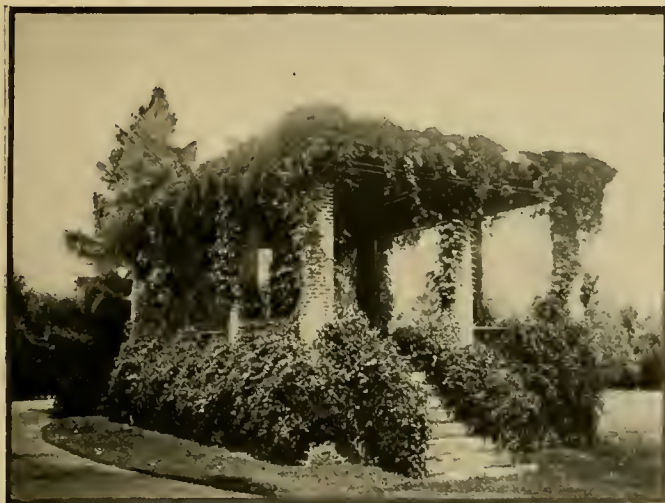
NEW YORK STATE MONUMENT.

Located within the National Cemetery, this dignified and artistic memorial excites the admiration of all visitors. It is a worthy rival in size and beauty to the great National Monument. It was erected in honor of the eight hundred and sixty-seven New York soldiers who were killed during the three days' struggle and are buried here.



THE NATIONAL MONUMENT.

This grand monument is the center-piece of the National Cemetery, and stands upon the identical spot where President Lincoln delivered the well-known "Gettysburg Address," November 19, 1863. It is crowned with a white marble statue of the Genius of Victory. The base is flanked by four statues typical of Peace, War, History and Plenty.



ROSTRUM AND GATE OF THE GETTYSBURG NATIONAL CEMETERY.

This appropriate resting-place for the Union soldiers who fell at Gettysburg was consecrated to that purpose, November 19, 1863. On that occasion President Abraham Lincoln delivered the famous "Gettysburg Address," a brief but immortal speech, saying in part: "We cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it far beyond our power to add or detract. It is for us, the living, rather to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. That this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom." The view shows the beautiful entrance with the Reynolds statue beyond, and in the upper left corner the rostrum, from which has been delivered many stirring orations.



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THE GETTYSBURG NATIONAL CEMETERY.

The grounds of this great National Cemetery cover seventeen acres on Cemetery Hill. It was planned and completed by authority of the State of Pennsylvania, but later was turned over to the care of the National Government. There are eighteen sections for each one of the Northern States represented in the battle, three for the unknown dead, and one for the United States Regular Army, making twenty-two sections in all. The bodies lie with feet toward the National Monument in the center. A total of thirty-five hundred and ninety soldiers are buried here, of which nine hundred and seventy-nine are among the unknown dead. The headstones of the identified form the long granite arcs. The unidentified have each a separate marker.

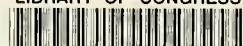
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